

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEVILL 00299 101139Z

ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /007 W

-----059165 101141Z /10

O 100955Z MAY 78 ZFF-4

FM AMCONSUL SEVILLE

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2821

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

UNCLAS SEVILLE 0299

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, CASC, SP (RALPHS, SUSAN)

SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF SUSAN RALPHS

REF: OSLO 2281, SEVILLE 0289 (NOTAL)

1. WE NOTE FIRST SENTENCE PAR 2 REFTEL FROM OSLO WHICH REFLECTS INFORMATION FROM ROYAL VIKING LINE THAT SUBJECT "DISAPPEARED WHILE SHIP AT SEA IN AREA OF MALAGA."
2. INFORMATION WE RECEIVED FROM AGENCY AT MALAGA AT OUTSET OF EPISODE WAS THAT SUBJECT HAD DISAPPEARED SOMETIME THE PREVIOUS DAY, THAT HER DISAPPEARANCE HAD BEEN NOTED APPROXIMATELY EIGHT OR NINE HOURS OUT OF MALAGA, AND THAT SHIP AUTHORITIES HAD SEARCHED ALL NIGHT.
3. PERHAPS SOME DISTINCTION SHOULD BE MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE BOARD OF INQUIRY BETWEEN (A) WHEN SUBJECT DISAPPEARED (WHICH PRESUMABLY HAS NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED AND (B) WHEN HER DISAPPEARANCE WAS FIRST DISCOVERED, WHICH ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION WOULD BE SOME EIGHT TO NINE HOURS OUT OF MALAGA, PROBABLY LATE THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 4.
4. AGENT IN MALAGA STATES THESE VESSELS CRUISE AT RATE OF ABOUT 19 KNOTS PER HOUR SO THAT EIGHT OR NINE HOURS FROM MALAGA

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 SEVILL 00299 101139Z

WOULD PLACE THE VESSEL SOMEWHERE OFF THE MOROCCAN COAST IN THE ATLANTIC. (WHEN THE SHIP IS OFF TANGIERS, FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS ABOUT SIX HOURS OUT.). WE ASKED THE AGENT THIS MORNING IF THERE WAS ANY DELAY IN DOCKING, I.E., WOULD THE SHIP HOLD FOR SEVERAL HOURS OFF MALAGA BEFORE DOCKING? HE SAID NEGATIVE, THESE SHIPS ARE EQUIPPED WITH BOW PROPELLERS SO THAT "THEY CAN DOCK IN FIVE MINUTES.".FOUCHE

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NNN

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